Jn 4:13 Whosoever shall drink of the water that I
shall give him shall never thirst.

Our appreciation of water this season.
Last year's predictions- another dry season and!
This year's growth and ~~freshness~~ grandeur
Replenishing of springs.
But one must go to the desert to gain a true appreciation of water.
A long day's journey, in hot sun, over blistering sands and thru stifling dust-then a ~~gushing spring~~ green spot and in the center a pool of cool, refreshing water! Rested and refreshed, you are soon ready for the journey again.
Have hiked many long weary hours in the mts where there was no water. The day was warm but nothing li like on the desert.
The desert folk surely know what water means.
To them no blessing like a well of water. It made the difference between famine and plenty, poverty and riches.
They described the blessings of life in terms of well and water.
"The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life"
"He leadeth me besides the still waters"
"As cold water to a thirsty soul"
It is not strange that Jesus, portraying the blessing of the Xn life, used the same figure. To a people acquainted with desert famine and thirst Jesus said, "Whosoever shall drink of the water that I shall giv give him shall never thirst", and then to those having received this blessing of the waters of salvatio he added, "The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." A Xn is as a well of water in a desert place.

This throws light on the real purpose of our salvation.
Its chief value not to those who receive it.
Getting one's own soul saved has its value, to be s sure.
But some Xns never go further than their own conversion.
My theological grilling this past week. Among other questions-Once converted can you ever be lost again?
The Xn who stops with getting his own soul save will not stay saved very long. Since he will not advance, he will surely backslide.

The chief value of your salvation is the blessings which others receive thru it. The desert beyond you must be conquered.

The well does not exist to quench its own thirst, to minister to its own need, to admire its own charms and powers, but to quench the thirst of others and to convert the surrounding desert into gardens of productiveness.

Of course one must have before he can give.

Water cannot be drawn out of a dry well. You can dig a hole in the ground and put op a sign, "This is a well", but unless you strike water it is no well. People may call themselves Xns but unless they live and serve as Xns their claims are void. Right here is the trouble with Xns who do nothing. "If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the doctrine."

"Be ye doers f the Word and not hearers only".

"If any man heareth these words of mine and doeth them not!"

Christ teaches that when he saves a person he does it not so much to bless that person as to make that person a blessing to others.

Right here we find the real genius of Xty. Xty is not a proselyting religion, attempting to win the adherents of other religions over to an acceptance of Xn doctrines and beliefs- as so many are wont to think. Christ's disciples are to share the blessings that Christ has bestowed upon them.

We are not redeemed to guard old relics, maintain holy traditions or preserve the bones of saints. Many churches simple guard the dead and in doing so they are but a part of the desert waste themselves.

Some churches are mutual admiration societies- they are not so much interested in the watering of the desert in which they stand as they are in keeping for their own enjoyment the blessings received.

Xty is a missionaly religion carrying its blessings to the uttermost parts of the earth. "Go ye into all thw world".

We are not saved simply to get into heaven, but to make this old earth as much like heaven as we possibly can. The Amazon river has its source within 150 miles of the Pacific Ocean. By going westward it could soon reach its destination. But the Amazon flows eastward for 2000 miles thru vaat stretches reclaiming desert region, creating great forests and wonderful wealth all the way to its mouth, and there it flows oceanward 500 miles.

The river of water is a picture of what Christ wants
3. his followers to be. The longer a river flows the larger it gets. The more a Xn lives and serves as a blessing to others the richer he becomes.

Thank God, in the realm of salvation is one place one does'nt have to practice ecomomy!

"Give, give, be always giving,
Who gives not is not living,
The more we give the more we live".

The fountain of God's salvation is enexhaustable.

Water, whether in a well or spring or river, teaches us the only way to cure our defects and correct our mistakes. It is not what we have that counts, but what we do with what we have that is important.

Senator Dolliver once asked if it was wrong for the church to take tainted money. After two days reflection he replied, "Take it and use it. Money, like water, purifies itself by circulation.

Thru active service by being a blessing do Xns keep themselves pure so that they can see God at all times.

Fellowship with God thru such Xn living.